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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS is intended to provide quick updates on issues of interest to members and affiliates of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). It is produced regularly throughout the academic year. This issue covers the months of July, August, September and October 2004.

Premier announces at least $300 million to R&D to match federal funding

On October 6, 2004, in a televised address to the Ontario Economic Summit in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced that his government is committing at least $300 million to match federal funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for research and development.

Ontario universities were delighted with the announcement. In a press release issued the same day, Richard Van Loon, Chair of Council and President of Carleton University, said, "The restoration of the capacity to match federal research funding is most welcome, and will enable the universities to maintain the momentum of research and development so crucial to the advancement of knowledge and the future economic prosperity of Ontario. We would like particularly to thank the Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Joe Cordiano, for his continuing engagement with university and business leaders on this issue."

In the 2004 provincial budget, there had been no provision made for funding the Ontario Innovation Trust to match future federal research awards from CFI. COU, its affiliate, the Ontario Council on University Research, and government ministers and officials worked together diligently to address this situation, since securing the CFI New Opportunities awards and Canada Research Chair (CRC) infrastructure funding that already had been applied for before the budget announcement required matching funds by the province. By summer's end, the government had agreed to provide an initial $25 million to match the New Opportunities and CRC infrastructure awards that were "in the pipeline" at the time of the budget announcement.

COU looks forward to the discussions led by Minister Cordiano and his ministry on how to continue to expand research and innovation in Ontario.

Past Principal of McGill University honoured with Smith Award

At a dinner held in Toronto on October 14, 2004, the fourth annual David C. Smith Award for Significant Contribution to Scholarship and Policy on Higher Education in Canada was presented to Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Ethics Commissioner of Canada, Immediate Past Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University, and former Deputy Minister of the Ontario ministries of Education, Skills Development, and Colleges and Universities.

The award celebrates the distinguished contributions that the late Dr. Smith made to scholarship and policy in higher education. To further broaden awareness of issues in higher education and the relationship between public policy and higher education, each recipient is invited to speak to a subject related to the award's theme. At this year's dinner, following the presentation of the award by Rev.

Mary Smith (Dr. Smith's widow), Dr. Shapiro delivered his address, *Government and Universities: A Challenge in the Formation of Public Policy*, which will be posted on COU's web site by mid-November.

The dinner was also attended by Ken Knox, President of the Innovation Institute of Ontario; Assistant Deputy Ministers Janet Mason from Training, Colleges and Universities, Timothy McTiernan from Economic Development and Trade, and Gabriel Sékaly from Finance; Dr. James Downey, former President of the University of Waterloo and former Chair of Council, who was the recipient of the 2003 Smith Award; a number of other special guests; and members of Council.

Past Smith Award winners are Dr. David Cameron, then-Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University; and J. Robert S. Prichard, President and CEO of the Torstar Media Group, former President of the University of Toronto and former Chair of Council.

All-time high attendance record at the 2004 Ontario Universities' Fair

A record-breaking 75,000 people attended the eighth annual Ontario Universities' Fair, which was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from September 24 to 26. The year's attendance number eclipsed even the 2002 fair, which was marked by the then-record number of 70,000 attendees due to the first wave of double cohort students.

Each university hosted an exhibit booth staffed by admissions and student services representatives, professors and students who offered printed information and answered questions about admissions policies, academic programs and campus life. In addition, each university held hourly information sessions in nearby presentation rooms.

All of Ontario's universities as well as the Ontario College of Art & Design and the Royal Military College of Canada were represented at the free-admission event. Other exhibitors included gold sponsors, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario.

The fair makes up the Toronto leg of the province-wide University Information Program organized by the Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison. A group of volunteers from the liaison community, chaired by Don Murdoch of York University, co-ordinated the fair.

Hon. Frank Iacobucci named Interim President for U of T

On September 1, 2004, the Honourable Frank Iacobucci assumed the role of Interim President of the University of Toronto, and will serve as such until June 30, 2005 or until a new president takes office.

He has a long and distinguished history with the University of Toronto. A member of the university's Faculty of Law from 1967 to 1985, he served as Dean from 1979 to 1983. In addition, he held two vice-presidential positions at the university – Vice-President (Internal Affairs) from 1975 to 1978, and Vice-President and Provost from 1983 to 1985. In 1989, U of T awarded him an honorary degree in recognition of his contributions to the academic discipline and profession of law.

Outside the university, he has held distinguished national roles as Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General of Canada (1985-88), Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Canada (1988-91) and, most recently, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (1991-2004).

Among many other activities, he has served as Vice-President of the National Congress of Italian Canadians, Vice-President and Governor of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, and Chair of the Ontario Law Deans. He has received numerous awards in Italy and eight honorary degrees in Canada and Italy. As well, he is an Honorary Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.

A native of Vancouver, he received his BComm and LLB from the University of British Columbia, and his LLM and a Diploma in International Law from Cambridge University.

He succeeds Dr. Robert Birgeneau, who became Chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley.

New Principal of Queen's University: Karen Hitchcock

On July 1, 2004, Dr. Karen Hitchcock became the 18th Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University.

Before Queen's, Dr. Hitchcock was President of the University at Albany, State University of New York from 1996, having served as Interim President and also as Vice-President of Academic Affairs (1991-95). She also served as Vice-Chancellor for Research and as Dean of the Graduate College at Chicago's University of Illinois, and was Associate Dean for Basic Sciences, Research and Graduate Studies, School of Medicine, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center. Dr. Hitchcock spent a significant part of her career at Boston's Tufts University and served as the George A. Bates professor of histology and Chair of the Department of Anatomy and Cellular Biology in the Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and the Sackler Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Hitchcock has published extensively in her field of cell and developmental biology and been the recipient of many grants from the National Institutes of Health. She has also received many awards including the prestigious National Science Foundation Professorship for Women in Science and Engineering; Marketer of Excellence Award from the New York Capital Region Chapter of the American Marketing Association; and induction into the Capital Region Business Hall of Fame.

Dr. Hitchcock received her BSc in biology from St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., and her PhD in anatomy from the University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry. As a Postdoctoral Fellow, she did work in pulmonary cell biology at The Webb-Waring Institute for Medical Research at the University of Colorado Medical Centre.

Dr. Hitchcock succeeds Dr. William (Bill) Leggett, who retired on June 30, 2004.

Minister on hand to open new IMG-Ontario office

On June 23, 2004, George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, officially opened the new IMG-Ontario office at 700 Bay Street. IMG-Ontario is a collaborative venture of the ministry, the Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. The former Ontario International Medical Graduates (IMG) Program and the Assessment Program for IMGs have been amalgamated under the new IMG-Ontario program.

IMG-Ontario was first announced in November 2002 to address the physician shortage and increase the number of positions for international medical graduates to gain entry to the Ontario system. There are now 200 positions available each year, half in family medicine and half in specialties. The program provides co-ordinated, one-stop shopping for foreign-trained doctors interested in exploring opportunities to practise their profession in Ontario. For more information, visit the program's web site (www.oimgc.utoronto.ca).

Pamela Wallin to receive the 2004 OPAS Visionary Award

On November 8, 2004, the Office for Partnerships with Advanced Skills (OPAS) will present the 2004 Visionary Award to Pamela Wallin, Canada's Consul-General in New York. After the presentation, Ms. Wallin, who is also known for her distinguished career as a broadcaster and journalist, will present her address, entitled *Canada-U.S. Relations – A View from New York*, which will no doubt be timely and compelling less than a week after the American presidential election. The 2004 Visionary Seminar, which will be held at the University of Toronto's Hart House, will be broadcast live to university campuses across Canada, through the support and facilities of Bell ExpressVu.

OPAS presents 2004 Awards for Excellence in Teaching with Technology

The winners of the third-annual OPAS Award for Excellence in Teaching with Technology were announced at a special luncheon held in Toronto on October 15, 2004. OPAS established the awards to recognize faculty at Ontario universities who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in using technology to enhance their teaching of university students and people in the workplace involved in continual learning.

The 2004 University Award, sponsored by CGI Group, was presented to Dr. Jim Hunt, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph for his innovative program, *Introductory Physics*. In this category, there was also an Honourable Mention to Dr. Jay Thomson, Associate Professor, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Waterloo, for his program, *Kinesiology 346 – Nutrition*.

The 2004 Workplace Award, sponsored by IBM Canada, was presented to *Consortium national de formation en santé (CFNS) et Centre du cyber-@pprentissage* of the University of Ottawa for the program, *L'Art de superviser des stagiaires*. University representatives, Lynn Casimiro of the Health Sciences team and Anne Patry of the university's Centre for e-Learning, were on hand to accept the award for their collaborative workshop series. Both awards are valued at $7,500.

Council welcomes new Academic Colleagues

In addition to two new Executive Heads, Council welcomes nine new Academic Colleagues:

- Dr. Leslie Pal, Director, School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University
- Dr. Bruce Muirhead, Graduate Co-ordinator, Department of History, Lakehead University
- Dr. Ellen Rukholm, Director, School of Nursing, Laurentian University
- Dr. Susan Elliott, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, McMaster University
- Dr. Antoni Lewkowicz, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Arts, University of Ottawa
- Dr. James Dianda, Department of Philosophy, Ryerson University
- Dr. Paul Thompson, Director, Institute of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at Victoria College, University of Toronto
- Dr. Paul Schellenberg, Chair, Department of Combinatorics and Optimization, University of Waterloo
- Dr. George Fallis, Professor, Department of Economics, York University

OUAC's Referral Service valuable resource for secondary school applicants

In 1987, the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) established the Referral Service to provide secondary school applicants with up-to-date information about university programs that still have spaces available, following the common response date to an application in mid-June. In the first few years, OUAC gathered the data needed by paper forms that university staff completed and returned to the Centre, and then, through an advertised phone-in system, OUAC staff used this information to help students who had not received an offer of admission and who wished to amend their application.

In 1997, OUAC developed a web version of the Referral Service. Today, university staff update their institution's program information online, and applicants and guidance counsellors can access this information for the period of time (usually June through August of each year) when applications are being considered. The OUAC web link is advertised annually in *INFO* magazine. Over the years, the number of applicants using the service has continued to grow, from 13,373 in 2001 to 32,845 in 2004, with a record number of 53,961 applicants in 2003 due to the double cohort.

OPAS hosts annual Summer Institute on Learning Technologies

From August 17 to 19, 2004, the Office for Partnerships for Advanced Skills (OPAS), in partnership with IBM Canada, hosted its sixth-annual Summer Institute on Learning Technologies at Sun Microsystems' facility in Markham, Ontario. The event was an opportunity for participants from universities and colleges to learn about new developments and share best practices. This included hands-on workshops on gaming technology, video in e-learning and the newest technology offerings for education at Sun Microsystems.

Robert Paré and Noel Paterson of IBM Canada gave key presentations on the future directions of e-learning technology and examples of collaborative tools, Tara Deakin from Rogers Communications explored inventive approaches to e-training, while Lynne Zucker and James Simon of Sun Microsystems provided perspectives on enterprise technology and innovative approaches to sharing learning content. Participants also had a chance to exchange ideas with Stéphane Boisvert, President of Sun Microsystems of Canada.

Additionally, a panel made up of Gail Ecker and Virginia Gray of the University of Guelph, Richard Pinet of the University of Ottawa and Gwen Wojda of Lakehead University highlighted several award-winning OPAS innovations in e-learning content.

Latest editions of annual COU publications now available online

- *Biennial Report 2002-2004:* The report details the planning for the double cohort years and the next phase of enrolment expansion, and examines how under-investment in provincial universities is a key factor in Ontario's lagging productivity. It also covers in detail the work of Council during the report's two-year period under the categories of public policy initiatives; new directions; studies, surveys and special publications; noteworthy events and activities; and organizational efficiencies.

- *Resource Document:* The 2004 edition provides a comprehensive review of statistics and trends relevant to Ontario universities. The review covers the following policy areas: grants and revenue; inter-jurisdictional comparisons; comparisons with other sectors; research; tuition fees; student financial assistance; university infrastructure; faculty and staff; and education and employment.

- *Application Statistics 2003:* Prepared by COU's Research, Analysis and Policy Division from data provided by the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC), this year's report presents application and registration data for fall 2003, and is based solely on students who applied through OUAC for full-time, first-year admission to an Ontario university.

OUAC continues developing web-based systems to exchange transcripts

In 2003, OUAC partnered with the Ontario College Application Services (OCAS) to develop a system to electronically exchange college and university transcripts and, in mid-November, the system went into production, enabling applicants to enjoy the convenience of requesting both college and university transcripts on one application. To date, approximately 40,000 transcripts have been exchanged – 11,094 university transcripts requested by college applicants and 28,914 college transcripts requested by university applicants. OUAC has also developed, in partnership with postsecondary institutions in British Columbia, the infrastructure to support the exchange of transcripts between Ontario universities and B.C. colleges and universities for future growth opportunities.

Since June 2004, OUAC has also been collaborating with the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) on a system that will facilitate the electronic transfer of transcripts from Ontario universities to OCT. Users will be able to link from OCT's web-based registration system to the new OUAC online Transcript Request Form to order their transcripts, greatly reducing the time and effort required by Ontario universities to send paper transcripts to OCT. The system is slated to go live in early 2005, with the bulk of activity occurring in June when applicants are completing their teacher certification files through OCT.

A fond farewell to two members of the COU Secretariat

- At the end of August 2004, after almost 20 years of service with COU, Eva de Graaf left her position as Service Co-ordinator, Affiliate Groups, to begin a new chapter in her life. Eva was originally hired as an Administrative Assistant to the then-Research division. Over the years, with her talent and attention to detail, she assumed progressively responsible administrative positions within the COU Secretariat. In recent years, Eva wore many hats, providing extensive administrative support to the Council of Senior Administrative Officers, the Ontario Council on University Research and the Ontario Council on Academic Vice-Presidents.
- Following the October 15th meeting of Council and after 16 years of dedicated service to COU, Sue West retired as Secretary to Council and Director of Administration, where her responsibilities included management of COU procedures, documentation and record keeping, and administration of human resources and related issues. Sue started at COU as Administrative Assistant to Administration working directly with COU's then-Executive Director, Dr. Edward Monahan.

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